

**MONTHLY REPORT OF
RIVER AND FLOOD CONDITIONS**

HYDROLOGIC SERVICE AREA:**Pocatello, Idaho****REPORT FOR:****MONTH: October YEAR: 2004****TO:**

Hydrologic Operations Division, W/OH2
 National Weather Service
 National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
 Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

SIGNATURE

Sherrie Hebert:

(In Charge of Hydrologic Service Area)

DATE November 8, 2004

When no flooding occurs, include miscellaneous river conditions, such as significant rises, record low stages, ice conditions, snow cover, droughts and hydrologic products issued (NWS Instruction 10-924).

X

An X in this box indicates that no flooding has occurred for the month within this hydrologic service area.

October was a record-breaking month for precipitation across the west with Eastern Idaho carrying its fair share. Both daily and monthly total precipitation records were broken across the area. Although the October rain and snow encouraged a great start to the 2005 Water Year, recovery efforts from six years of drought will take more than one winter of record precipitation, likely two or more.

Other Hydrologic Interests

Precipitation

October precipitation for the Pocatello HSA was an amazing 251.6% of normal for 37 of 42 reporting stations with climate data, according to Western Region Climate Center data. Of those stations, ten broke October total precipitation records, which are below.

Station Name	Precip (inches)	Normal (inches)	Percent of Normal	High	Year
Preston	5.11	1.55	329.7	5.10	1981
Malad Airport	4.09	1.10	371.8	3.52	1946
Ashton	3.94	1.37	287.6	3.91	1994
Soda Springs	3.60	1.19	302.5	2.80	1981
Grace	3.53	1.22	289.3	3.42	1946
McCammon	3.37	0.94	358.5	2.15	2000
Craters Of The Moon	2.82	0.88	320.5	2.59	2000
Idaho Falls 16 SE	2.68	1.08	248.1	2.47	1967
Picabo	2.55	0.78	326.9	2.09	1989
Howe	1.40	0.46	304.3	1.40	1991

Nearly 95% of the Pocatello HSA stations received 100% or greater than normal October precipitation, with 27 receiving at least 200%. Those stations receiving greater than 300% are on the following page.

The following daily records were set on October 23:

Challis: 0.25 inch of rainfall broke 1989 record of 0.10 inches

Idaho Falls: 0.39 inch of rainfall broke 1972 record of 0.32 inches

Pocatello: 0.41 inch of rainfall broke 1997 record of 0.31 inches

Stanley received the least precipitation receiving only 0.62 inches, 63.3% of normal and Oakley was 65.9% of normal with 0.54 inches.

Station Name	Precipitation (inches)	Normal (inches)	Percent of Normal
Mackay Ranger Station	2.15	0.55	390.9
Malad Airport	4.09	1.10	371.8
McCammon	3.37	0.94	358.5
Dubois	2.79	0.82	340.2
Blackfoot FD	2.34	0.69	339.1
Preston	5.11	1.55	329.7
Picabo	2.55	0.78	326.9
Challis ASOS	1.43	0.44	325.0
Craters Of The Moon	2.82	0.88	320.5
Howe	1.40	0.46	304.3
Soda Springs	3.60	1.19	302.5

Reservoirs

The Upper Snake River reservoir system is at 16% of capacity¹, up 6% from October 8, 2004.

Reservoir	% Capacity September 30 ²	% Capacity October 31 ³	Percent Change
American Falls	4	18	14
Henry's Lake	66	67	1
Island Park	25	37	12
Palisades	24	11	-13
Ririe	32	34	2
Lake Walcott	31 ⁴	17 ⁵	-14

Source: (1) US Bureau of Reclamation (BOR), November 4, 2004;
(2) NRCS, September 30, 2004; (3) BOR, November 4, 2004.

Drought

Eastern Idaho continues to rank entirely in the D3, "Extreme" and D4, "Exceptional" categories on the US Drought Monitor. Low soil moisture, low SWSI values and above-normal temperature and below-normal precipitation outlooks leave little to no room for relief in the near future.

Current Emergency Drought Declarations for 2004 include all 17 Eastern Idaho counties of the 24 declared statewide. The first county declared was Clark County on April 14 and the most recent being Minidoka County on September 22.

October 2004 Hydrologic Product Summary

Product	Number Issued
Flash Flood Warning	0
Flood Watch for Flash Flooding	0
Flood Warning	0
Flood Watch	0
Urban and/or Small Stream Flood Warning	0
Urban and/or Small Stream Flood Advisory	0
Flood Statement	0
Hydrologic Statement	0
Hydrologic Outlook	0
NOW or Special Weather Statement (with information related to flooding)	0
Local Storm Report related to flooding	0

cc: Melissa Smith, WFO Hydrology Program Manager
Harold Opitz, HIC NWRFC
Hydrometeorological Information Center
Jim Meyer, MIC PIH
Jay Breidenbach, SH BOI
Greg Kaiser, Storm Data Focal Point PIH